



**North Carolina Courts Commission**

**September 16, 2016**

**Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force**



# Gov. Pat McCrory's Executive Order No. 76

## Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use

- **Whereas**, mental illness and substance use disorders are among the biggest health care challenges that our state will face over the next decade; and
- **Whereas**, the issues surrounding access to mental health and substance use treatment and recovery services must be addressed in a comprehensive approach to better use our existing resources and break down silos between government agencies and jurisdictions and the private sector



State of North Carolina

PAT MCCRORY

GOVERNOR

July 14, 2015

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 76

THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE

WHEREAS, mental illness and substance use disorders are among the biggest health care challenges that our state will face over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, providing appropriate treatment for people with mental illness and substance use disorders can significantly benefit individuals, families, communities, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the issues surrounding access to mental health and substance use treatment and recovery services must be addressed in a comprehensive approach to better use our existing resources and break down silos between government agencies and jurisdictions and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the DHHS Crisis Solutions Initiative has resulted in initiatives to improve our mental health system, brought together community leaders to provide creative solutions, and promoted strategic crisis solutions that have been supported by the Governor and General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, pilot Mental Health and Substance Abuse Courts have shown success in obtaining compliance with appropriate treatment regimens and have the potential to reduce the amount of mental illness-related and substance use-related crime and the number of individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders in our jails and prisons; and

WHEREAS, providing appropriate early identification and treatment of mental illness and substance use disorders was a focus area for the Governor's Safer Schools initiative because untreated mental health disorders or substance use can affect academic achievement, family violence, medical needs, out of home placement, incarceration rates, and the overall cost associated with these problems to society.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, IT IS ORDERED:

#### Section 1. Establishment

The Governor's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use is hereby established (hereinafter, "Task Force").



# Building upon a strong foundation of commitment

The Governor's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use builds on work already begun by Governor McCrory, with the launch of the Crisis Solutions Initiative in 2013 and the launch of the Governor's Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking Prevention and Treatment Task Force in 2014.



*Governor Pat McCrory signed the executive order that established the Task Force on July 14, 2015*

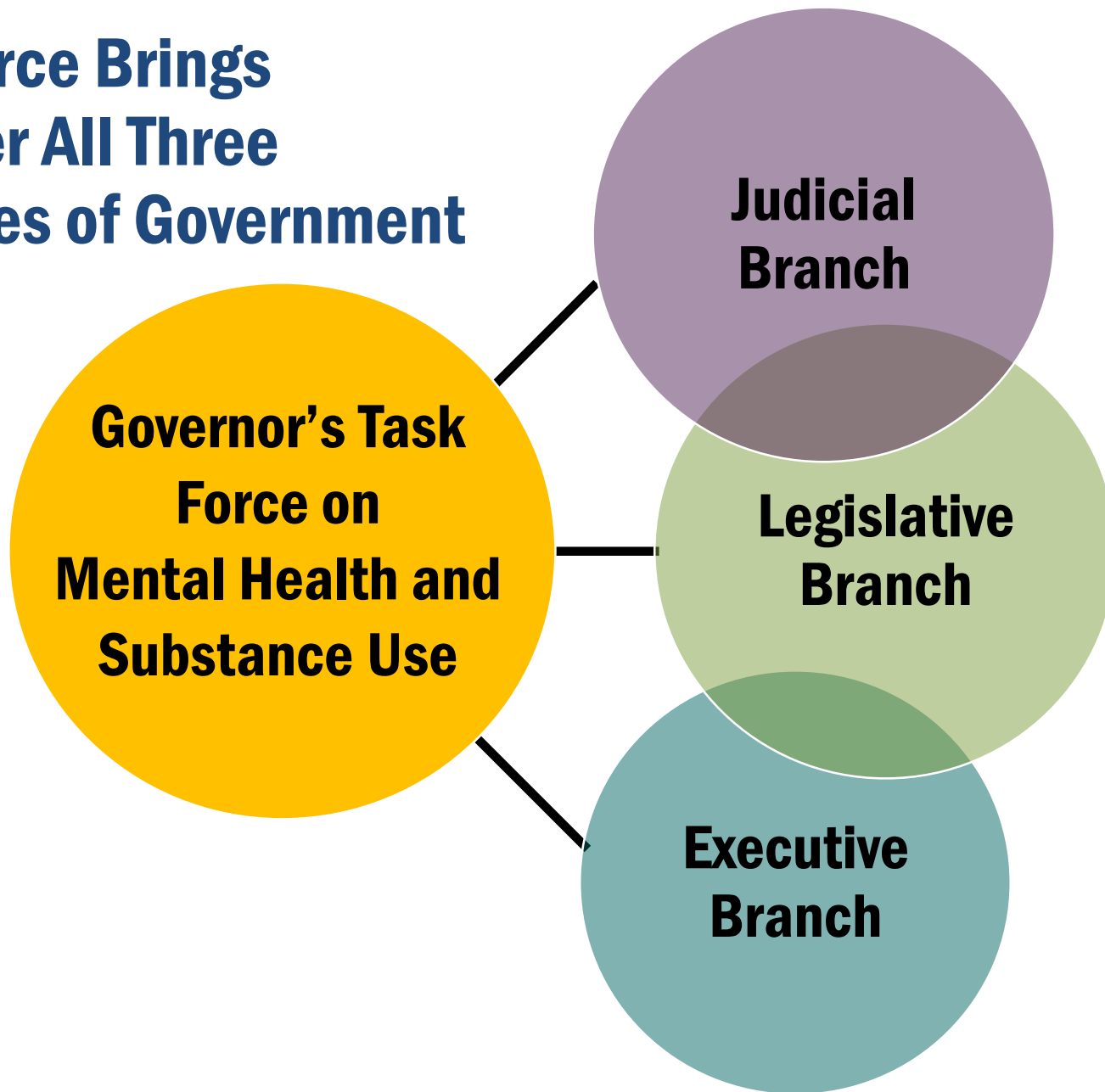




# How did we arrive to where we are today?



# **Task Force Brings Together All Three Branches of Government**



## Established 3 workgroups

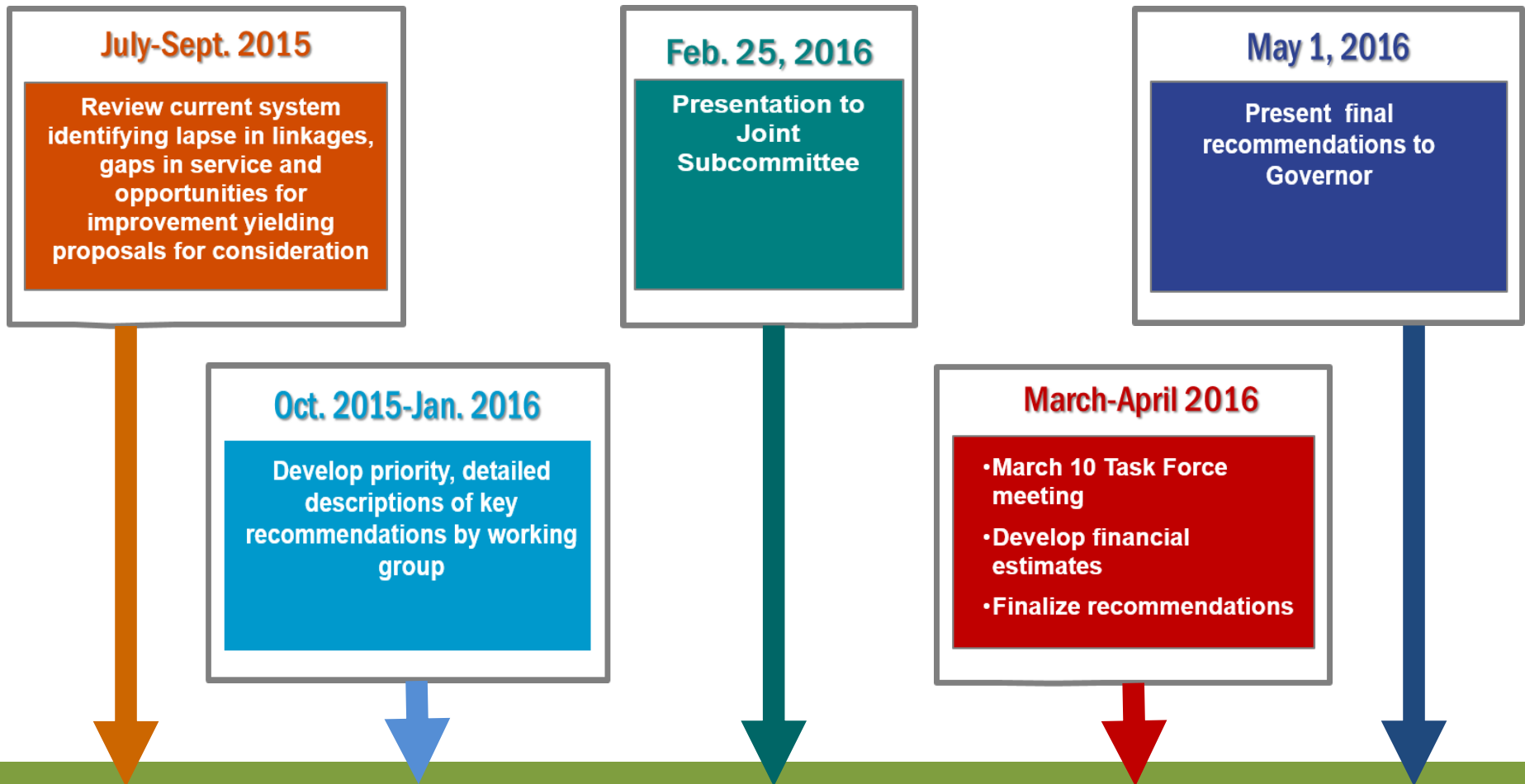
**Adults**

**Opioid Abuse  
and Heroin  
Resurgence**

**Children,  
Youth and  
Families**



# Task Force Timeline



# Task Force Achievements

- \$20 million committed to implementing three pilots to demonstrate Governor's task force recommendations
- \$20 million for increased rural crisis bed capacity for adults (\$18 million) and children (\$2 million)
- Partnership with DPI on Mental Health First Aid
- Naloxone state-wide order signed into law
- Needle exchange programs authorized and signed into law
- Improvements to the Controlled Substance Reporting System
- (New Cherry Hospital facility adds Medical Psych unit and 116 new inpatient beds at full capacity)

Reconvened on September 13, 2016





# Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force Pilot Programs



# Task Force pilot programs

**Juvenile Justice  
Diversion &  
Reunification/  
Placement**

**Improve  
psychiatric bed  
capacity &  
reduce repeat  
admissions**

**Local opioid  
response  
strategies**

**8/24/16**

Initial draft to  
DMH/DD/SAS  
Leadership

**9/7/16**

Final Draft to  
DHHS and OSBM

**9/30/16**

Release  
Request for  
Information

**10/21/16**

Responses from  
Providers Due

**11/1/16**

Award  
Announced

**1/1/17**

Implementation



# Task Force pilot programs

*Case Management for Diversion from Juvenile Justice and Successful Reunification or Placement*

Juvenile Justice  
Diversion &  
Reunification/  
Placement

- **Case Management for children, adolescents and their families involved in foster care or justice systems**
- **Focuses on developing strategies to divert youth from the justice system**
- **Case managers on-site at a child welfare and juvenile justice offices for educating, referring, and linking to other supports for children/youth and their families**



# Task Force pilot programs

*Case Management to Improve Psychiatric Bed Capacity and Reduce Repeat Admissions*

Improve  
psychiatric bed  
capacity &  
reduce repeat  
admissions

- **Case management to address hospital emergency department (ED) psychiatric bed capacity and repeated admissions**
- **Focuses on individuals in need of inpatient psychiatric treatment, individuals with recurring ED admissions and drug-related ED visits, including overdose**
- **Detailed Plans of Care, to be monitored by the case manager for up to 9 months, are a requirement for discharge from the ED**



# Task Force pilot programs

## *Local Opioid Response Strategies*

Local opioid  
response  
strategies

- **DMH/DD/SAS will support the development of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs by building on existing initiatives**
- **LEAD trains officers to divert low-level drug offenders to services and treatment, rather than jail**
- **Focuses on identifying and referring people using prescription opioids and heroin to treatment and supports**





# Future Governor's Task Force Focus

